

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6 and 12-20 have been rejected and claims 4, 5, 7-11 and 21 have been objected to. Claims 1-21 remain for prosecution.

The objections and rejections of the Examiner shall be taken up in the order presented in the Office Action.

1. The Examiner has objected to the oath as not complying with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.63(c). The Examiner's objection is based on the premise that a U.S. application cannot be a continuation of an international application. In response to the objection, Applicants respectfully submit that a U.S. application can be a continuation of an international application and requests that the foreign priority claim for the instant application be acknowledged. Support for Applicants' position can be found in sections 1895 and 1896 of the MPEP.

2. The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not complying with 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). It is respectfully submitted that the recited features of claim 21 are not necessary for the understanding of the claimed subject matter. See 37 C.F.R. §1.81(a). Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings has been traversed.

3. The Examiner has objected to the specification as being informal. For the reasons discussed in enumerated paragraph 1, it is respectfully submitted that the objection has been traversed.

4. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Clemens et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the following:

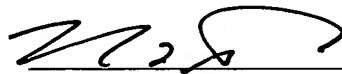
“...the first means for preventing comprising an intermediate sleeve interposed between the outer sleeve and the shaft, the intermediate sleeve having a shoulder that prevents the nozzle head from descending into the pipe disjoined from the outer sleeve when the nozzle head has the first break.” [cl. 1, emphasis added]

It is submitted that the above limitation is neither taught nor suggested by Clemens et al. and is therefore patentable in view thereof.

7. The indication that claims 4, 5, 7-11 and 21 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated. Claims 7 and 21 have been rewritten into independent claim format. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 7 and 21 are now allowable in view of the cited art.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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